GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3592
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2008
FISHING OF TUNA
Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Yadav Shri Anirudh Prasad (Sadhu)

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has proposed that vessels registered in the country would only be allowed to catch tuna in Indian seas;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction from various quarters thereon;

(c) whether the Government proposes to continue with the existing practice of giving foreign vessels Letters of Permit (LoP) for fishing tuna;

(d) if so, whether the domestic tuna fishermen and processors are against foreign vessels fishing for tuna in Indian waters and whether any representation has been received from them in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(f) the details of corrective steps taken or likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a & b) Yes sir. Only the vessels registered in India are being allowed to fish in India seas. Presently 86 resource specific deep-sea fishing vessels belonging to 21 Indian Companies have been give permission by the Ministry of Agriculture to fish in the Indian EEZ;

c) Letters of Permit (LoP) are being issued to only the Indian companies for vessels registered in India;

(d) Representations have been received from All India Fishery Industries (AIFI), Visakhapatnam against the LoP vessles. However, LoP vessels are not foreign vessels;

e) & f) An Expert Group has been constituted by the Ministry of Agriculture to review the guidelines for operation of deep-sea fishing vessels under the Chairmanship of Deputy Director General (Fisheries), Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the representatives from other stakeholders. Indian Deep-sea Fishing Industry Association, Visakhapatnam was also invited to participate in one of the meeting of the Expert Group. The Expert Group has since submitted its interim report to the Ministry of Agriculture.